has not received the proposal. Such proposals are examined and approved as per the existing guidelines and statutory requirements.

Impact of climate change on Ganga River

2652. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the likely disastrous consequences of the climate change like disappearance of the Himalayan Glaciers after three decades, the holy Ganga river being reduced to a monsoon drain and over half a billion people facing serious water shortage as predicted by the Scientists; and

(b) if so, what precautionary measures have been visualized to avert the disasters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change, the Himalayan Glaciers are receding faster than in any part of the world and, if the present rate continues, the likelihood of them disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner is very high if the Earth keeps getting warmer at the current rate.

The various scientific studies indicate that the glaciers of Himalaya including glaciers of major rivers like Ganga and Yamuna are receding at varying rates in different regions. Accordingly, due to melting of ice, consequent upon faster recession, the runoff of the Himalayan rivers may initially increase marginally. Thereafter, there may be decrease in water availability.

(b) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in June 2008 which envisages the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 National Missions. This Mission would seek to understand weather and the extent to which the Himalayan glaciers are in recession and how the problem could be addressed.

A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. Guidelines and best practices for the governance for sustaining Himalayan Eco-system has been developed and shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

Restoration of Kolleru Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

2653. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the release and utilization of 'CAMPA' funds for restoration of Kolleru Lake Wildlife Sanctuary; and

(b) the progress made, so far, on the works relating to restoration of water channels for free flow of flood waters into sea and ecological restoration and afforestation of the area round the lake?